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SENATOR KIEL: OPS has a separate Retirement Fund, actually OPS's Retirement Fund predates the State Education Retirement Fund, it was started in 1909, so it is a separate fund.

SENATOR HUDKINS: And then also you say that the money is already in the Retirement Fund. How did it get there in the first place?

SENATOR KIEL: Very wise investment.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Sounds good. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes, Madam President. I want to rise to encourage (microphone not working)...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator, try again.

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, you're going to hear me anyway. (Laughter.) Senator Kiel talked about how this helps the teachers of the OPS school district, and that's certainly true. But also the school employees, the service employees that are employed by the Omaha Public Schools would also benefit from this. Again reiterate that this is not a request for any funds whatsoever, only using the funds wisely invested that are actuarially secure, to increase the benefits of those who are on retirement. One more point that I think is of note to add to this debate regarding this bill is that the Omaha Public School District is \$14 million in deficit compared to their budget projections and with our property tax caps, our lids. This bill would help the Omaha Public Schools because it would also enable more folks to retire at a good salary, and then of course the teachers and replacement workers that are hired are obviously hired at starting levels, therefore this even has a shade, although this is not the primary intent, of course, of the legislation, a shade of helping OPS deal with the property tax problems that we're all incurring. So I would encourage the body to support this bill. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Senator Janssen.